

## **Student Sports Spotlight Feature**

This week we feature Year 13 student Sila Esekielu who represents the school in volleyball, basketball, rugby and athletics. Sila has made a positive start to the year winning the Senior Boys Athletics Championship for his efforts in javelin, discus, shot put and long jump. At the Central/West Zone Athletics meet Sila finished second in both the Senior Boys discus and javelin. This qualified him for the Auckland Championships, which were unfortunately cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sila was also a key contributor for the Senior Boys Volleyball team. He has been nominated by the Sports Department for his maturity and reliability he shows when representing the school.

We asked Sila a few questions about his involvement with sport and how he handled the lockdown period:



### **1. How did you get into the sport/s you currently play?**

I was introduced to basketball and volleyball through my friends who also played. For athletics it was compulsory at intermediate school and I found I wasn't too bad at it so I carried on. Rugby is a big part of my family so I've been encouraged by them and I was inspired by the 1<sup>st</sup> XV in my first year and the success they had.

**2. Who has been your biggest influence and why?**

For me my biggest influence is one of my best friends Samuel, as he is always pushing me, helping me and motivating me to always do better. As well as him my friend James who was the one who introduced me to nearly all the sports I have played and currently play which are all large parts of my life.

**3. To date what has been your biggest highlight in your chosen sport/s?**

For athletics it would be getting through to the Auckland Championships for an individual event for the first time. For rugby it would be getting through to the finals in my first season of playing.

**4. How have you managed to stay active during the lockdown period?**

I went for runs most days being motivated by the College Sport challenges. If I didn't run I would play basketball and do some skipping.

**5. What has been the hardest challenge during the lockdown period?**

Keeping motivated with both keeping fit and doing schoolwork.

**6. What are you looking forward to the most after the lockdown period?**

Being able to get back into sport and train with my team.

**7. What are your personal goals for the remainder of 2020?**

To get into the sports teams I want to. Graduate the year with excellence. Get enough University Entrance credits. Also hoping to gain a University scholarship.